

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2022

Lisa Garcia
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2
290 Broadway New York, NY 10007

Dear Administrator Garcia:

We are writing regarding the recent announcement that the EPA secured an agreement with General Electric (GE) for an investigation of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) pollution in the lower portion of the Hudson River. We are greatly appreciative of the EPA's continued attention to this ongoing issue and believe the EPA can take additional steps to restore the Hudson River and protect this treasured landmark of our districts. To maximize the effectiveness of this agreement, the EPA must commit to moving towards a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, incorporate local voices into the process, and fully analyze the effects of this pollution on local fish species.

The Hudson River is a celebrated natural resource that provides habitat for wildlife, clean drinking water for our communities, and world-class scenery and recreational opportunities to New Yorkers and its many visitors. The well-being and quality of life of millions of New Yorkers are inherently linked to the Hudson's countless natural systems and habitats.

Unfortunately, for nearly thirty years in the mid-twentieth century, two GE facilities discharged more than 1.3 million pounds of PCBs into the Hudson River north of Albany. This pollution has led to the Hudson River being designated as America's largest Superfund Site, stretching 200 miles through New York. These toxins have had a significant impact on public and environmental health – from moratoriums on fishing to increased cancer rates among nearby residents. It is long past time that the river is cleaned up for good.

We applaud your leadership in working to advance the Hudson cleanup and believe that the recent agreement with GE to investigate PCB pollution in the lower portion of the Hudson Superfund Site is a step in the right direction. However, we believe that this process must lead to the critical next phase in the Superfund process — a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study that could provide the first step toward developing a recovery process that will benefit all impacted communities.

Secondly, all voices must be heard and included throughout every step of this process. Currently, there is a lack of representation from the lower Hudson on the Community Advisory Group, including groups addressing environmental justice and disadvantaged communities. These groups possess invaluable expertise about the unique harm PCB contamination has caused their core constituents. To achieve an equitable recovery, they must have a seat at the table.

Thirdly, we urge the EPA to conduct an angler survey to gain a better understanding of how extensively vulnerable communities continue to catch and eat contaminated fish despite posted health warnings. In

addition to increasing awareness about people's reliance on the river for subsistence, the study can help inform outreach to protect them against further harm.

Finally, to fully restore the Hudson River we encourage you to continue to work with the community and GE to reach a settlement that will result in a complete cleanup and restoration of this waterway. The diverse communities who call our region home have suffered for more than 70 years from this unprecedented contamination. They should not have to wait decades longer for it to be addressed and we can and must move faster to finally restore the Hudson.

Thank you for your dedication to the people of New York and this nation. We look forward to your prompt action on this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Patrick K. Ryan
Member Congress